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HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL NOTES

MITCHELL.—James Mitchell resided at Yorktown before the Revolution, and his will was proved there March 16, 1772. According to this paper, his wife was Janet Rule, daughter of Alexander Rule, of Lilinthgow, Scotland. Her will was proved at Yorktown, August 19, 1782, and names five sons: James, Jarman, William, Stephen and John Mitchell, and granddaughter Janet R. Cosby. There is a marriage bond dated April 8, 1773, of Stephen Mitchell to Margaret, daughter of Alexander Maitland, a merchant. Their great-granddaughter, Augusta Maitland Libby (Mrs. George F. Libby), of Roland Park, Maryland, is authority for the following: Margaret (Maitland) Mitchell died in Baltimore in 1828, aged 70. She had by her husband Stephen Mitchell ten children, one of whom Eliza Chamberlain Mitchell, married Robert Edwards Carter, of Boston and Baltimore. They had Alexander Maitland Carter, of Baltimore, father of Mrs. Augusta Maitland Libby. A sister of Janet (Rule) Mitchell, of Lilinthgow, married ——— Jeffrey, grandfather of Francis Jeffrey, of the *Edinburgh Review*.

In the letter book of Francis Jerdone, a merchant of Yorktown, there are some references to James Mitchell. Under date of August 21, 1753, he writes to Capt. Hugh Crawford: "Your friend James Mitchell met with an unlucky accident last week coming out of town from Williamsburg, his horse ran his chair up against a bank & overset it, by which one of his legs was broken in the fall, however he is now in a fair way of recovery."

David Maitland was a merchant of Petersburg and married Susanna Poythress, daughter of Joshua and Mary Poythress, of Flower de Hundred, Prince George Co. Her tombstone is at Blandford Church, Petersburg, according to which she died February 9, 1799, aged 33 years; on the same tomb is an inscription to their daughter, Mary Currie Maitland, who died January 27, 1795, aged 4 years. The register of Bristol parish shows that there was another child, at least, David Currie Maitland, born November 2, 1796, and died October, 1797. In the same register it is stated that William Maitland and Elizabeth, his wife, had a

son Alexander Campbell Maitland, who was born August 2, 1795, and died October 25, 1796. What relation Alexander Maitland was to David Maitland or William Maitland, of Petersburg, does not appear.

SLAVERY IN NEW ENGLAND.—Mrs. Agnes Edwards, a native of Massachusetts, in her interesting books, "Cape Cod — New and Old," writes in chapter IV. as follows: "Another portrait, too frequently neglected by the historians, must hang in this line: a dark face, laughing and yet sorrowful — the face of the negro. The people of Massachusetts have liked to believe that slavery had a very light and very brief hold upon this soil. Records, however, testify all too distinctly that our Puritan fathers, doubtless considering themselves the elect to whom God had given the heathen for an inheritance, not only enslaved captured Indians, but sold them to work in the tropics, where they died almost immediately; that they obtained negroes by importation, purchase, and exchange; that they condemned criminals into slavery as punishment; and that they even enslaved the Quakers at one time. Neither was this a private speculation, but an enterprise of the authorities of the colony, and existed for over a century and a half without serious challenge. Cotton Mather illustrates the temper of the times toward the Indians in his "Magnalia," in which he explains: 'We know not when or how these Indians first became inhabitants of this mighty continent, yet we may guess that probably the Devil decoyed these miserable savages hither, in hope that the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ would never come to destroy or disturb his absolute Empire over them.'

"In the will of John Bacon, of Barnstable, made in 1730, we get another inimitable specimen of the inconsistency then current. This John Bacon gives to his wife the 'use and improvement' of the slave Dinah for her lifetime, and if 'at the death of my said wife, Dinah be still living, I direct my executors to sell her, and to use and improve the money for which she is sold in the purchase of Bibles, and distribute them equally among my said wife's and my grandchildren.'

"About 1780 slavery became unprofitable and therefore unpopular in this climate, but it was not until President Lincoln's Proclamation that it was entirely abolished — a fact which it

would be salutary for many a too emphatic New England abolitionist to remember."

CHISWELL, COL. JOHN.—He was a prominent man in the Colony. In a quarrel with Robert Routledge, a Presbyterian merchant of Petersburg, he killed his opponent. This occurred June 3, 1766. Chiswell was 40 years of age. (*Virginia Gazette*.) He was arrested and committed suicide at his house in Williamsburg, which is still standing.

HOT WATERS.—This place in James City Co. is distant about seven miles from Williamsburg. During the Revolution it was the scene of a battle. It was originally the property of Sir William Berkeley, who gave it by will to his widow, Lady Frances. In 1686 Philip Ludwell, Esq., and his wife "Dame Frances Ludwell" (formerly Lady Berkeley) made a deed of the place (150 acres) to James Gary and Martha his wife. The deed attested by Rowland Davis is among the Ludwell MSS. in the Virginia Historical Society. This deed shows that Lady Berkeley did not always use the name of her first husband as sometimes said. The inscription upon her tombstone, a fragment of which remains at Jamestown, calls her "Lady Frances Berkeley."

KERR, ALEXANDER.—A lottery of diamonds advertised at his jewelry store. He had a good brick house near the capitol. (*Virginia Gazette*, 1737.)

MR. TYLER OF LONDON.—Capt. Edmund Cheesman complains of an order granted to Lt. Col. John Smith, attorney of Mr. Tyler of London, for tobacco due for rents of land in Gloucester Co., belonging to said Tyler by the curtesy of England. (General Court Records, 1673).

BRICKS.—*Ship Braxton* of London, Thomas Reynolds, master, from New England with 80,000 brick, 10 barrels of train oil, some wooden ware and 400 weight of hops. Entered in York District. (*Virginia Gazette*, 1737.)

RECENT ACCESSIONS TO THE STATE LIBRARY.—

- (a) Flat filing to the extent of 50,000 pieces, approximately, as follows:
- i. Letters to the Auditor (1787-1860) 28,207
 - ii. Licenses (1807-1863) to Merchants, Ordinaries,
Pedlars, Doctors, Lawyers, etc. 12,856
 - iii. Pensions (Revolutionary), Applications and Orders
for 4,533
 - iv. President and Vice-President, Returns for (1800-
1852, except that N-Y, 1848 and A-L, 1852, are
missing 1,711
 - v. Executive Papers of various administrations, com-
pleted and in process by "archival apprentices".. 2,635
- (b) The indexing of the Confederate Records has reached forty-two thousand cards,—that being an increase of fifteen thousand since our last report.
- (c) Henrico County Circuit Court, under date of Jan. 13, 1919, and under authority of the Act of Assembly of 1918, transferred to the Department all of their records *prior to* 1781. There were nineteen volumes and eighteen bundles of papers (wills, deeds, etc.). Amongst these is a splendid index to the five volumes of "Colonial Records," 1677-1739. Under an Act of 1890, these five volumes were copied on a good quality of bond paper, while this index is, of course, on similar material; the result is that we use only the index and the modern copies, except in case of serious uncertainty. Several of the originals are in deplorable condition, as you may imagine.
- (d) The class of "archival apprentices" this session consists of twenty as compared with twelve last session and two the session before. Each one works two hours a week in the Department as an "historical laboratory." Most of them are working upon various administrations (the

Executive Papers), from which they are digging out a comfortable number of legislative petitions, which are being inserted in their proper places in that file. Seven are working with a view to histories of counties of the state, concerning which there is not a single separate title in the Library,—there being fifteen of these counties, while one is working on the Rumsey steamboat papers, which were transferred here from the Augusta Court, which the case of McMeekin v. Rumsey was brought in 1800.

- (e) On the 2nd, instant, I started on the subject-index to the file of Legislative Petitions.

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